

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 2/14/2011

Present: Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice-Chair; Sally Thompson, Secretary; Jim Papachristos; Paul Turner; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Norma Wu, President Friends of the COA; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department; Mary Rohwer, Social Work Intern.

Absent: Stephen Baran, Treasurer; Ann Corcoran; Pat Ellis; Barbara Willson.

Call to Order- Barbara Tallone

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:50 PM on 2/14/2011 at the Senior Center. Barb Tallone reminded board members about the COA Board training sessions offered in different locations around the state and asked individuals to consider attending.

Items disseminated at meeting include:

- Director's Report for January 2011
- Acton COA Winter Weather policy
- Acton Council on Aging Policy: Campaigning for Office
- Acton Council on Aging Policy: Standards of Independence for Senior Center Participation
- Memorandum from Charlie Aaronson on First step in the preparation of a 3 to 5 year strategic plan for the Acton Council on Aging
- Minuteman Senior Services Elder Abuse & Neglect
- Minuteman Senior Services Elder Abuse Quick Reference Guide

Review of the Minutes- Sally Thompson

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 11/10/11 were accepted without correction.

Vice-Chair Report-Charlie Aaronson

Charlie is leading the development of a 3-5 year strategic plan for the COA Board. The first focus is on the development of a good mission statement that will set the basis for the rest of the strategic planning process. The mission statement should be brief so it is easily remembered. Questions were asked about clarifying the process. Charlie distributed materials as listed above in items disseminated. Charlie suggested each board member read the materials distributed and write a mission statement and email it to him so he can collate the statements for discussion at the March COA Board meeting.

Liaison to Friends of the COA – Norma Wu

Because she was unable to stay for the full meeting, Norma's report was given next. The Friends of the COA raised \$9142 for this fiscal year thus far. They still plan to distribute an appeal to businesses and are applying for a United Way grant. The Friends will continue with their fund raising work. Before completing her report, Norma asked the COA Board to think of ways to attract the new (younger) seniors to the Senior Center.

Director's Report- Sharon Mercurio

Sharon passed out her Director's Report for January 2011. Some highlights include: Attended Department Head, Safety Net, Liberty Alzheimer's Partnership and Concord Provider meetings. Spoke at Acton/Boxboro/Stow Clergy Association. Attended team meeting for client in town. Met with Minuteman Senior Services Director. Submitted proposal to Active Acton Committee.

The Inn at Robbins Brook will do a monthly meal at the Acton Senior Center on the third Tuesday of every month.

She also has a human services intern from Fitchburg State College who is doing an internship of 15 hours per week.

The Senior Center was closed on January 12 and 26 due to the weather. Sharon continues to follow up with IT to address various issues (cable TV, printer installation, safety cameras).

Upcoming programs are available in the COA Newsletter on the Town of Acton website.

Sharon distributed her proposed policies which were accepted by unanimous vote following discussion.

Treasurer Report – Steve Baran

Steve is absent. No report.

Liaison to BOS- Mike Gowing

Mike plans to participate in a ride along program with the meals on wheels drivers to visit recipients of the meals and offer them an opportunity to meet with a BOS member.

Mike continues to work closely with the transportation issues in Acton.

The COA By-Laws will be coming before the BOS soon, and Mike is holding a place for possible warrant article.

Mike encouraged the COA Board to follow the Acton 2020 conversation online and participate where opinions are asked about matters that may affect seniors. It is possible to register opinions on the website and to volunteer.

Liaison Acton Police – Sgt. Ray Grey

Sgt. Grey has continued to meet with social services teams to review Acton client matters. They are now using a social services group called Advocates to help with some constituents who call the PD many times in a night.

There has been a roof snow removal scam with prices quoted as high as \$4700.

The Inn at Robbins Brook has a monthly group that Sgt. Grey attends where internal problems are discussed.

Sgt. Grey has written an article for the next issue of the COA Newsletter informing elders about the scams and increasing their awareness of victimization.

Liaison to Healthy Communities-Health Department Group-Barbara Willson

Barbara was absent, but provided to the Chair information that the committee continues to comply with grant expectations.

Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services- Charlie Aaronson

Charlie reported that there was no meeting in January. He handed out material on Elder abuse listed in the materials disseminated section.

Call for Future Agenda Items – Barbara Tallone

Charlie – Place on the March agenda the Strategic Plan discussion and discussion of the future Senior Center.

Close Meeting-Next Meeting– Barbara Tallone

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA Board is March 14, 2011. It will be held at the Acton Senior Center at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary